

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following amended claims 1-4 for pending claims 1-4:

1. (Amended) A method of screening or detecting non-ocular disease in an animal, the method comprising obtaining a tear sample from the animal and analyzing the tear sample for an indicator or marker of the non-ocular disease, wherein the indicator or marker is a protein having a N-terminal amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
EDASSDSTGA DPAQ(E/Q)AGTSQ PNEDIAG (SEQ ID NO: 1);
WDPKE (SEQ ID NO: 2); and
DSGCKLLEDM VEKTINSDIS IPEYKELLQE FIDSDAAAEA MGKFKQCFLN
QSHRTLKNFG LMMHTVYDSI WCNL (SEQ ID NO: 3).

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the protein includes the amino acid sequence:
DSGCKLLEDM VEKTINSDIS IPEYKELLQE FIDSDAAAEA MGKFKQCFLN
QSHRTLKNFG LMMHTVYDSI WCNL (SEQ ID NO: 3), or part thereof.

3. (Amended) A method of screening or detecting non-ocular disease in an animal, the method comprising the steps of:
(a) obtaining a tear sample from the animal;
(b) separating biomolecules present in the tear sample; and
(c) detecting for the presence or absence of one or more biomolecules such that the presence or absence of the one or more biomolecules being an indicator or marker of a disease state in the animal, wherein the one or more biomolecules are one or more proteins having a N-terminal amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
EDASSDSTGA DPAQ(E/Q)AGTSQ PNEDIAG (SEQ ID NO: 1);
WDPKE (SEQ ID NO: 2); and
DSGCKLLEDM VEKTINSDIS IPEYKELLQE FIDSDAAAEA MGKFKQCFLN
QSHRTLKNFG LMMHTVYDSI WCNL (SEQ ID NO: 3).

4. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 3 wherein the protein includes the amino acid sequence:
DSGCKLLEDM VEKTINSDIS IPEYKELLQE FIDSDAAAEA MGKFKQCFLN
QSHRTLKNFG LMMHTVYDSI WCNL (SEQ ID NO: 3), or part thereof.